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# ChapelZone

#57

15 CLASS A CARTOONS & COMICS

premier edition • vol. 1, #1

one geek's take on everything

# geek

muzik  
comix  
movies  
tv  
zines  
kulture  
& other  
assorted  
nonsense

I don't  
wanna hear  
it, sister...  
gee, dear...  
Isn't life  
grand?

see inside for a special  
FREE zine offer!

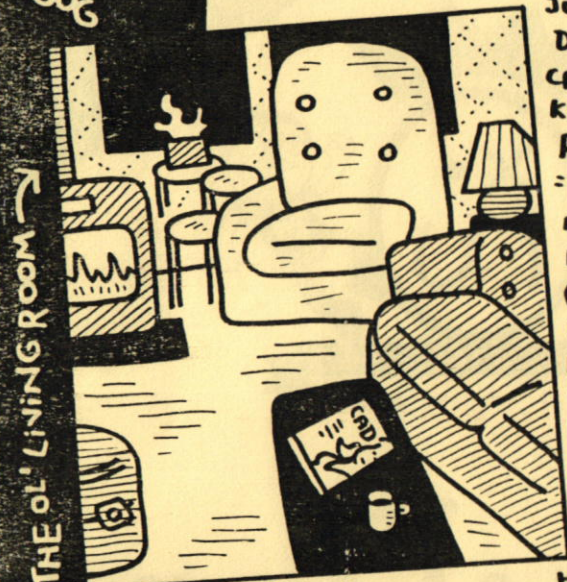
#1 \$1.50 U.S. \$1.25 Can. \$1.00 U.K.





↑ DOUG

THE OL' LIVING ROOM →



↑ DENIZENS OF THE KNICK-KNACK SHELF



Hi THERE, 'ZINE FANS...

THIS SPLIT ISSUE OF THE CHAPEL ZONE AND MY NEW PET PROJECT "GEEKSPEAK" IS THE FIRST 'ZINE I'VE ACTUALLY COMPLETED SINCE I PUT MY LONG-RUNNING MUSIC 'ZINE "SPUN" TO BED. ALMOST A SOLID YEAR HAS PAST AND IN THAT TIME, LOTS OF STUFF HAS GONE ON IN THE LIFE OF DOUG... WHEN THE LAST "SPUN" CAME OUT, I WAS PULLING THREE JOBS AND LIVING AT MOM'S... THEN, I GOT A

JOB MAKING ADS AT A DAILY NEWSPAPER, THEN CAME MY ASST MGR (3RD KEY, ACTUALLY) JOB AT A RECORD STORE CALLED "HMV" (HIS MASTER'S VOICE, NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW) AS WELL AS A PART-TIME (NOW ON-CALL) JOB DOING GRAPHIC DESIGN AT AN ARTS 'N' ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY CALLED "THE WORCESTER PHOENIX" (EVEN THOUGH IT'S PRODUCED IN AUBURN, MA!).

AND I'M OUT OF THE HOUSE OF MOM AND IN MY OWN HIP, SWINGIN', PSEUDO-BACHELOR PAD ON GOOD OL' WOODFORD STREET...

(CONTINUED ON PAGE JUST BEFORE CENTER) →

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my life, then I'll wait to put out a next issue... That's another difference between geekspeak and SPUN, I had all kinds of deadlines and release dates and self-imposed schedules for myself to get shit done and I think that that kind of strict regimen-tion of time hurt the overall product. I don't see the out when I feel like putting it out. I don't see the point of putting out an issue that isn't exactly right and I have this uncanny feeling that readers pick up on that vibe; they can tell if a 'zine's been rushed. Hell, there are so many 'zines out there that are just stopped together that I hope geekspeak stands out as being well thought-out design-wise and subbed matter wise. geekspeak will also be in Web-form at the address: [http://www.ici.net/cust\\_pages/dougspun/index.html](http://www.ici.net/cust_pages/dougspun/index.html). It won't look exactly like the print version (less snazzy graphics), but it's FREE to all you cheapskates (like me)... enjoy the ride.... -dc

What can I say? I got the itch to 'zine again. geekspeak is gonna be pretty much like my previous 'zine was except with less of a music focus and more of an everything focus. geekspeak isn't about being objective or fair or nice, necessarily. I let all Doug, all the time. Maybe I'll let on an occasional contributor appear in gs but pretty much, this is all about what I have on my mind, what I'm interested in, intrigued by, driven gaga over, etc. Self-centered? Well, I think it was Mark Twain who said

the @ info: geekspeak • 1 © 1997 by Doug Chapel Design aka DCD. All writing and photo manipulation is original, some art may have been pirated, but... Comments? geekspeak, 25 woodford st. #3, worcester, ma 01604 usa or by email at dougspun@ici.net. Service with a sneer! To-Ita... -dc

geekspeak



# petshopboys

## Bilingual Speaks the International Language of Pop

I've been telling myself for the past week that if I was ever to form a Pet Shop Boys tribute band, I'd call it the Roundhead Generals, from an obscure lyric in the song, "Left To My Own Devices", but that's neither here nor there. (What a way to start a

review, huh?) I'd been waiting for the Pet Shop Boys latest album pretty much since their last one, Very, came out. (You know, the one with the lego-esque cover to it?) I gobbled up the CD single to the first song off Bilingual, "Before" and even got the domestic release of it with the bonus Quicktime Movie / Video on it. Call me a fanboy, I don't care, because the P.S.B's put out some of the most emotional pop/disco songs around. There's an awful lot of disco music from the 70s that's pretty damned soul-less compared to songs like "Always Comes As A Surprise" which has a very cool Latin beat to it as well as a smooth sax sample from a

guy named Stan

Getz.

I've

been

hear-

ing and

reading

alot of

positive

reviews of

Bilingual

on the radio

and in maga-

zines and have

gotten some

interpretations

that I probably

wouldn't have

come up with

myself. For instance,

that a general theme

to this cd is living in two

worlds at the same time

(gay/straight, English /

Spanish, etc.) and another that the

song "Survivors" is a call to those

down and out with AIDS or just in fear

of it, should try to live life to its fullest

just the same. There's alot of big talk

and profound ideas here, but they aren't



Hi, I'M A REASONABLE FACSIMILE OF CHRIS ELLIOT of 'CABIN BOY' and THIS IS THE ...

## CHAPEL ZONE

-AHoy!

I DON'T APPEAR IN ANY OF THE REST OF THIS STUPID COMIC, BUT I THOUGHT I'D INTRODUCE IT.

SEAL  
of  
QUALITY

FF AT  
THE  
COPA-  
COPA CA  
BANA!

'CUZ  
I GOT ME  
A PURPOSE  
IN MIND FOR  
YOU... YOU SEE  
WHAT I  
MEAN?

PURPOSE  
FOR ME?  
YEA,  
RIGHT!

"HEY! WELL,  
WHATTAYA KNOW...  
I'M BACK!!! um,  
well, uh... OUR  
STORY BEGINS  
WITH AN ODDLY  
DRESSED, RAGE-  
FILLED ADOLESCENT  
WHELP CARRYING A  
TALKING LOBSTER!"

I HATE  
YOU, YOU  
STINKIN'  
CRUSTY-  
-ACIAN!

THEN  
STOP  
CARRYIN'  
ME AROUND  
iDIOT!

FF AT  
THE COPA-  
COPA CABANA,  
MUSIC AND  
MADNESS  
AND... F

UH,  
LADY...

MISS?





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- resumés • cd sleeves • j-cards /
- cassette inserts • promotional posters
- press kits • custom design • t-shirt designs
- typesetting • web page stuff

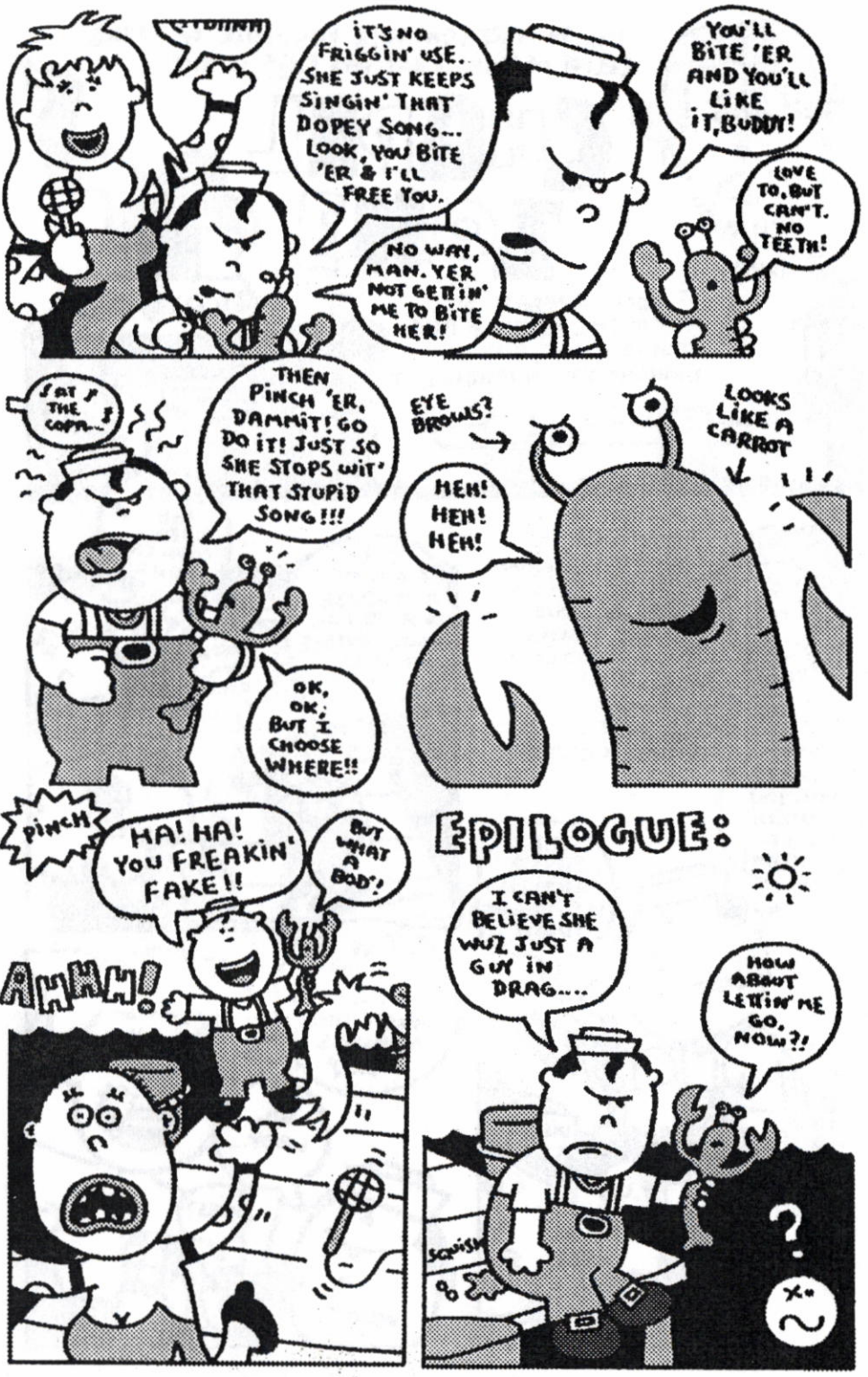
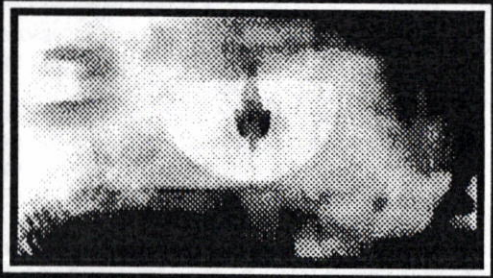
**doug chapel design**

**need design?**

**page four**

getting high and mighty. The songs to me are an odd combination of happy and sad at the same time, like "Red Letter Day" where Neil Tennant sings about people living secret lives, not being able to be who they really are with some sort of public acceptance, longing for a red letter day of change... It's bitter-sweet stuff, but I love it.

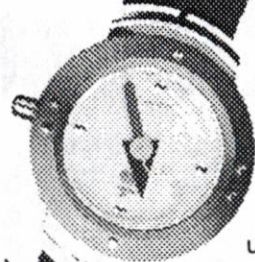
Upon starting my new job at the record store, I discovered a long lost Pet Shop Boys video collection sitting on the shelves which I promptly bought as my own. I had thought that it'd been discontinued, never to return, but no... On it was a slough of songs with videos I had never seen before. The controversial "Being Boring" was on there complete with almost buck naked guys & girls partying it up in black & white and there was the strangely surreal "DJ Culture" video, which is now one of my ultimate favorites by the boys... Now video of the PSBs in South America (way from the Very cd. (Also, some PSB too expensive right now) and the videos apparel would be quite nice...) Ugh... yes, I'm the ultimate PSB fangeek, but the way I figure it, it's better than being into gangsta murderer rap. (Atlantic) - DC





# WATCH OUT

■ (left) My "Timeless Nice Popsies" Swatch and (below) my clear Swatch (real names unknown) and (below that) my Mac OS watch.



As much as I hate the passage of time, I'm hooked on buying interesting devices to wear on my wrist to observe the sands of the hourglass slip silently by. Well, okay, so some of my Swatches® are pretty damned loud (at least to my ears, as I'm trying to go to sleep), but there are so many different kinds out there that it's next to impossible to not find one you may like. Of course, I've got this problem of liking too many of them, and my wallet has made me well aware of this, especially on Ste. Catherine Street in Montreal where I fell prey to a vast collection of Swatches® in the window of Bijouterie Eliko. Of all the ones I saw, the one I purchased was a maroon diving watch that matches a lot of my clothes and Chantal got a Swatch® pop-watch which was affixed onto a silver cloth bracelet thing. Supposedly it could be easily popped off and popped ON to other articles of clothing. Damned if we could figure out how. I could have bought another, too, but I restrained myself. I didn't do quite as good a job at it at the MacWorld convention in Boston. As soon as I saw the Apple OS watch (right>) I ran to the mobile bank machine and did the deed... I have to tell myself that at least I'm addicted to watches and not crack. Tic toc tic toc tic toc....



## ONE GEEK'S LIFE

THE REASONABLY TRUE (YET DECIDEDLY BIASED) TALE OF ONE GEEK'S LIFE... IT'S BLEAK, BUT FUNNY...

"IT'S 7:35 PM. I'VE BEEN EXILED TO MY ROOM. I'M WATCHING THE SIMPSONS ON A CRAPPY TV AND MY MUSE IS MOCKING ME..."



"MEANWHILE... MY MOM AND HER GEEKY EAST EUROPEAN COMPUTER REPAIR HACK MAN-FRIEND IDLE AWAY THE HOURS WATCHING THE HUNGARIAN CHANNEL..."



AND BEFORE ANY OF MY ACQUAINTANCES, FAMILY & CO-WORKERS GET PISSED & DECIDE TO SUE... REMEMBER, I'M NOT USING YOUR REAL NAMES. SO THERE...

EXTRA! EXTRA!! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!

ABRUPT SEGUE.... →







**page ten**

Quincy Jones, no less.) So this is what I stumbled across anyway. Now, you've gotta rummage through those Salvation Army stores and grandparents' closets and flea markets. Don't spend an arm and a leg, just find stuff you like and then piece 'em all together later. Soon enough, you'll be the uber-geek you've always wanted to be and you'll be livin' "la vie du geek". -DC

**Chicks Dig Stereophonic Sound**

**La Vie du Geek**

**9th Floor**

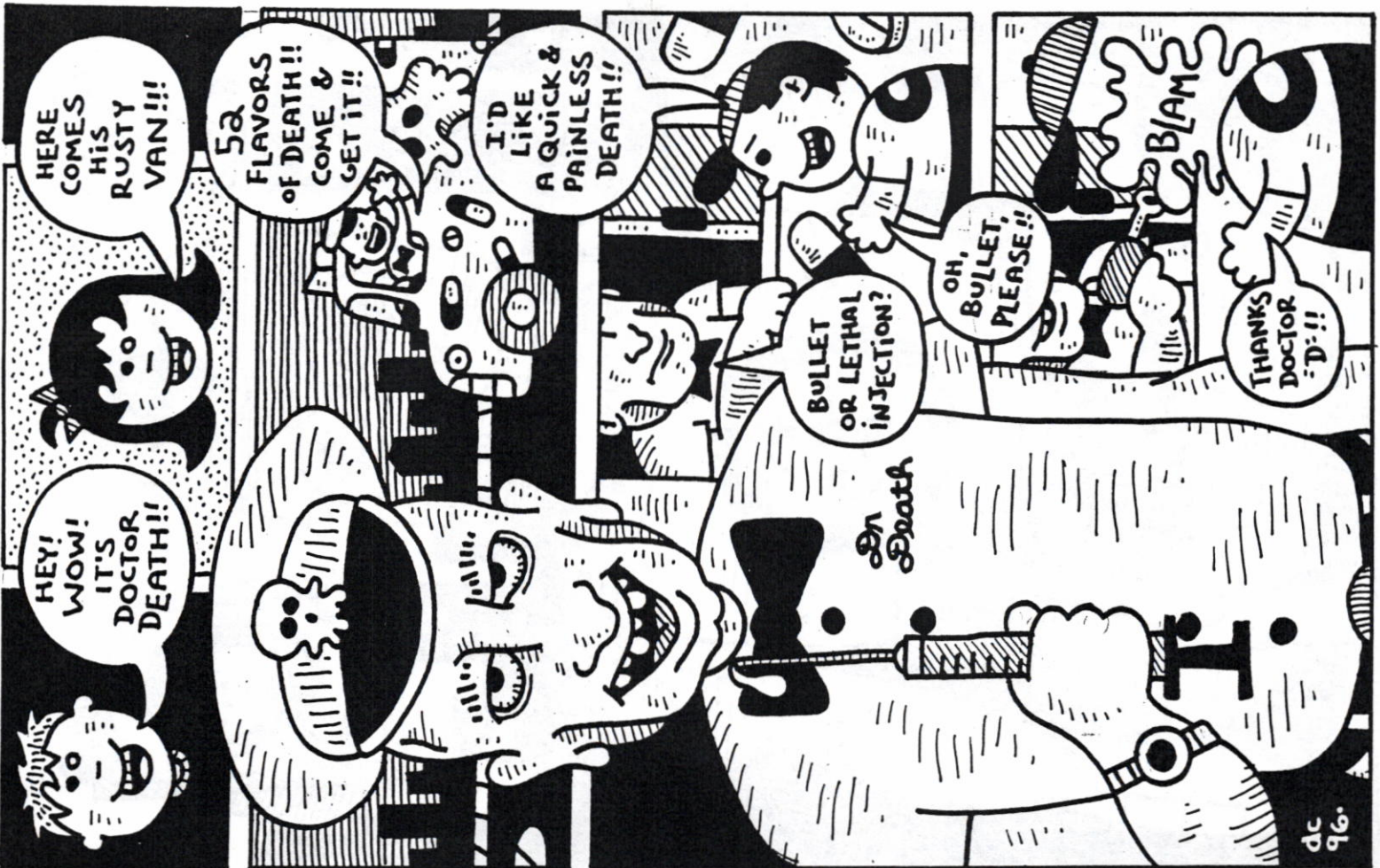
**LOF**

(continued) My landlady's husband came over a few days later to instruct me on the use of my ancient parlor heater (another time, another story) and used brute force to move this arm and that part and the turntable played and sounded like a geek wet dream! Well, okay, not quite as good as the dream of getting a suped up computer system, but in the same ballpark.

As the turntable's manual reads, "...fidelity is achieved by combining the qualities of stereophonic sound reproduction for natural depth and direction and reverberation for 'concert hall' resonance." It goes on to say that because of all of the "outstanding features", my "home" will be filled with many hours of listening pleasure. And THAT it shall.

What's even more strange about this Silverstone monstrosity is that it blends in perfectly with my pea soup green sofa and my two gold chairs which rest atop a periwinkle carpet, not to mention my assorted collection of lamps and two gold / mirror tables that my fiancée's grandmother left behind. Stereo-phonics sound was just what the joint needed. AND, the record that was still on the turntable when I opened



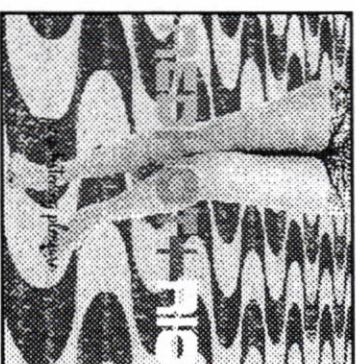


# Tune-age

Them CD's they just keep a-comin'... Thanks to my new job at HMV, I'll have another source for getting promo's and advance stuff and all that jazz, but I can't guarantee that Geekspeak will be on the cutting edge. We cover whatever rocks our whirled at any given moment and we report back on the stuff that bit more dust than Bob Dole falling off that platform.

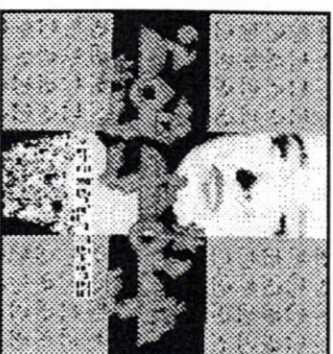


So without further ado, let me tell ya about **Vanessa Daou** who has a new CD out called "Slow To Burn", which was highly recommended to me by my former boss at Newbury Comics, Adam. She's cute, has a breathy voice and the overall sound reminds me of a more fucked up version of Everything But The Girl's new electronic sound. I especially like the opening track, "How Do You Feel" which has a great bit with an old Hammond / Wuritzer organ sound in it. (MCA) (<http://www.mca.com/mca/records>)



New in the Red Hot series is **Red Hot +Rio** which takes (I guess) classic Latin num-

bers like "Corcovado" and "The Girl From Ipanema" and has 'em redone by more modern folks like Everything But The Girl doing the former and Crystal Waters doing the latter. Other big names include Stereolab teaming up with Herbie Mann, Antonio Carlos Jobim with Sting, David Byrne with Marisa Monte, PM Dawn with Flora Prim & Airoto and a whallop of a team-up of Cesaria Evora, Caetano Veloso and Ryuichi Sakamoto. Whew! A lotta names and a lotta latin. This is ultra-lounge with a modern touch, but go easy, take in small doses. You can really overdo it on pseudo-



nostalgia here. But not a bad collection, over all. (Anilles/Nerve) (<http://www.nerve-interactive.com> & <http://anilles.net>)

**Boy George** put out a CD back in '91 that went largely ignored as far as I can tell and I'm here to resurrect it. The "Martyr Mantras" is a great set of remixes of various Boy George stuff like a thumping version of "Generations of Love" and "Love Hurts". Very disco-y stuff here and if yr not into Boy George now, you probably never will be. But feel free to prove me wrong. Try George out. (Virgin Records)







## Tune-age

(continued >)

Two promo's that happily fell into my were **Robert Miles'** "Dreamland" and **Ben Neill's** "Tryptical". Both are primarily electronic pieces, but Neill's cd incorporates his actual trombone playing to create a smooth jazzy feel. "Tryptical" starts off sounding a bit like Underworld on the song "Propeller", but then plunges into darker realms, becoming more of a movie score than a collection of individual electronic pieces. Miles' cd starts at high speed smooth dance stuff (with sim-

ple, realistic piano parts thrown in on nearly every track) and stays there. Great for dancing, but it starts to sound all the same if you try to listen to the whole cd at one go. (Antilles / Arista) <http://www.antillesnet.com>. <http://www.aristarec.com>.

I must admit that I haven't listened to **One Of Us'** entire cd called "Sky Clad" but if the lead-off track is any indication of the whole, then expect some fine song craftsmanship, lush/how-the-hell-did-he-do-that guitar work from Christian Gilbert and a very Peter Murphy-goth tone on John Eye's vocals. This REALLY does NOT sound like a local band. It's too good sounding to have been churned out of some hack's studio. (more >)

One Of Us



5 X Y C I A J

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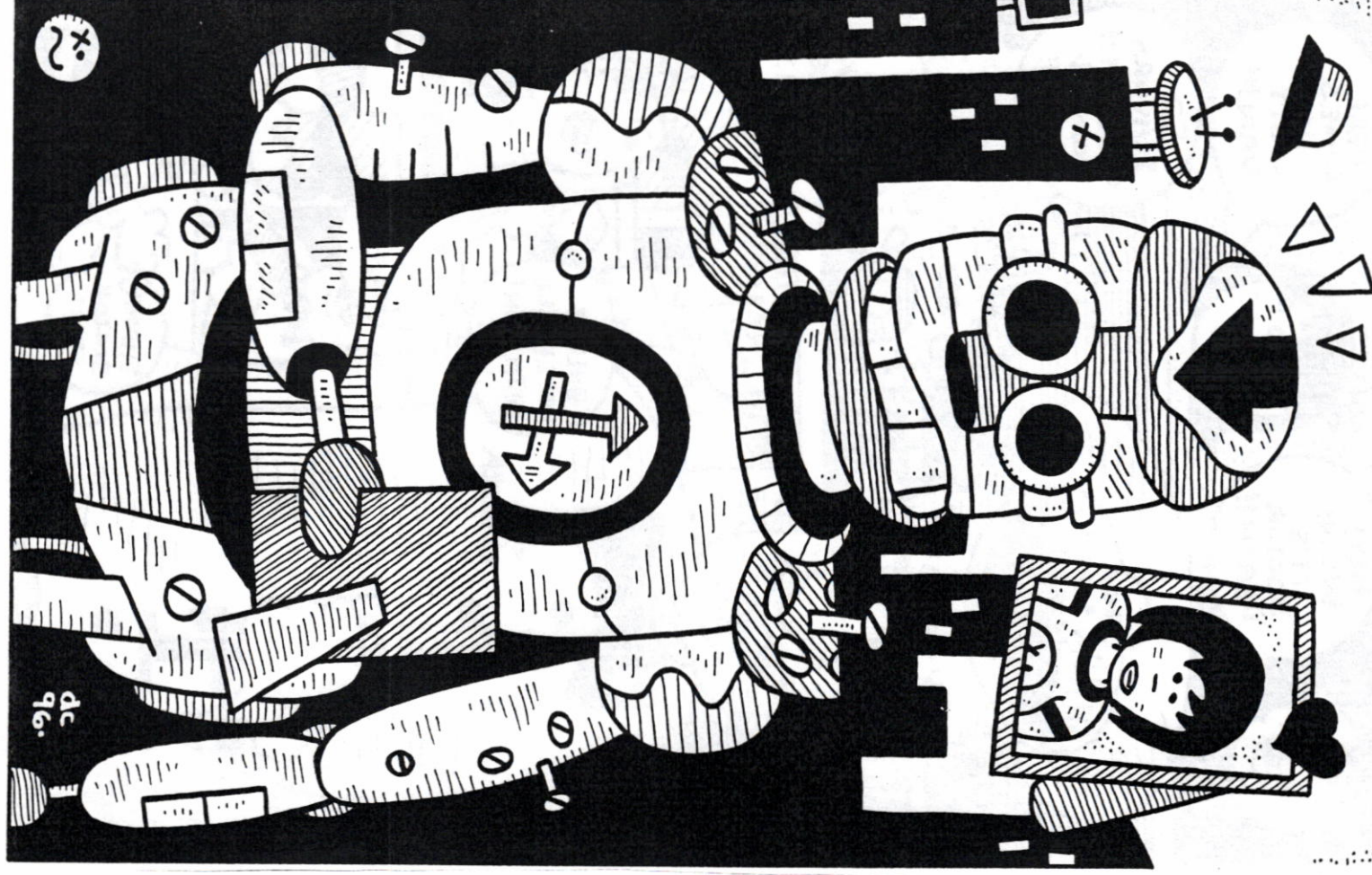
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WHY BOTHER GETTING UP EACH MORNING ONLY TO GET BEATEN BACK DOWN BY YOUR TYRANNICAL OVERLORD BOSS? IT REALLY MAKES NO SENSE!!

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send every bit of cash, liquidate all your assets and sign everything over to us at SLOTH UNIT.

We'll send you the bare-bones life necessities that you'll need to stay alive while doing absolutely nothing.

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address \_\_\_\_\_  
city, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_  
phone \_\_\_\_\_

SLOTH UNIT,  
PO Box 123  
Central Town, WY  
87798 USA  
don't call you  
we'll call YOU!

WOW! I SLEPT 'TIL NOON!! WHAT A LIFE!!

DO IT REAL TODAY!!

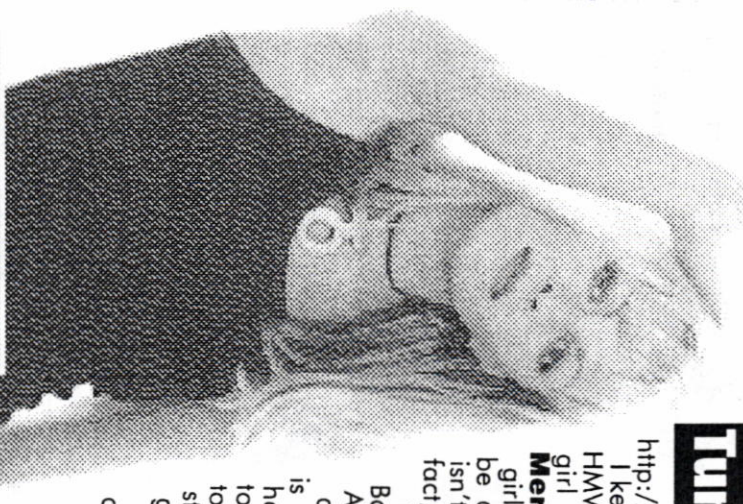
HEY!!

WE'LL SEND YOU AN AUTHENTIC-LOOKING DIPLOMA TO HANG ON YOUR WALL JUST IN CASE SOMEONE THINKS YOU'RE REALLY GOOFING AROUND AT HOME AND NOT WORKING!! IT MIGHT WORK!!

CLOCK SAYS NOON

I TOLD MY HUSBAND TO GO TO HELL... I WANTED TO GOOF OFF AND NOT WORK!!

I'M JUST A KID. WHAT DO I KNOW?!!



## Tune-age

(continued >)  
Check out One Of Us' web page at

<http://www.itiac.net/users/oneofus>.

I keep getting this common question at HMV: "Do you have that single by that girl with the song 'The Mouth'?"

**Merril Bainbridge** (<left> is that girl's name and at first I thought she'd be a Courtney clone, but I guess she isn't quite as angry as Miss Love. In fact, this chick has the nerve to cover the Pet Shop Boys' song "Being Boring" in much the same way Tori Amos did "Smells Like Teen Spirit" and "Losing My Religion". This cover is probably the only reason why I'll hold onto this CD (instead of going to ye olde used record shop with it); too soft, too feminine for me... and I still haven't heard that "Mouth" single... (Universal Records)

**"Ibiza"** is the mecca of the '90s dance scene, period!!", so says the back sleeve notes to this ambient / trance / trip hop collection put out by Moonshine called "Ibiza Afterhours". Ibiza is an island in the Mediterranean that I have yet to locate on a map, but I'm told that THIS is the stuff to "chill out" to after yr long night of dancing, tripping, etc-ing... I got it for the Under-world track "Second Hand", but all of this music is pretty even keel lose-yourself type stuff... (Moonshine) (<http://www.moonshine.com/Moonshine/cover.html>)

And last but certainly not least is the "Live at Glastonbury" cd from **Banco De Gaia**. If you heard the cd "Last Train to Lhasa", you'll love this cd which has subtle variations on that cd's songs, plus some others, like the amazing ending track "Data Inadequate". What makes this even more special for me is that I was driving past Glastonbury the weekend that this was driving through the Glastonbury area of (more >)



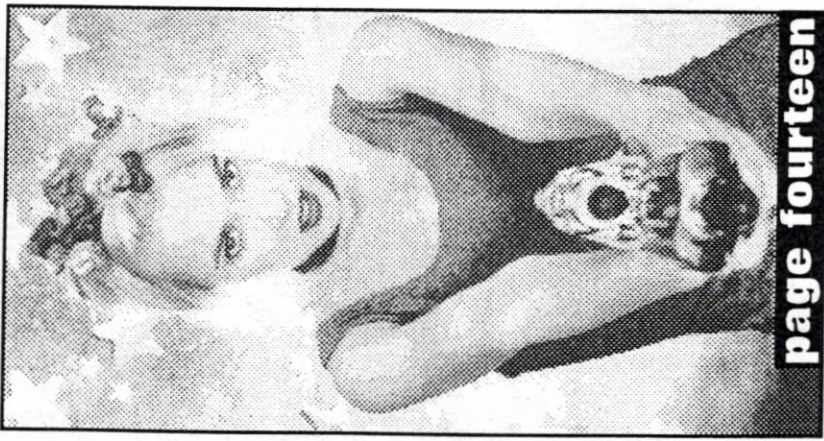


(more>) England when this thing was being recorded back in June of '95. (Mammoth / Planet Dog) (<http://www.obsolete.com/banco/>)

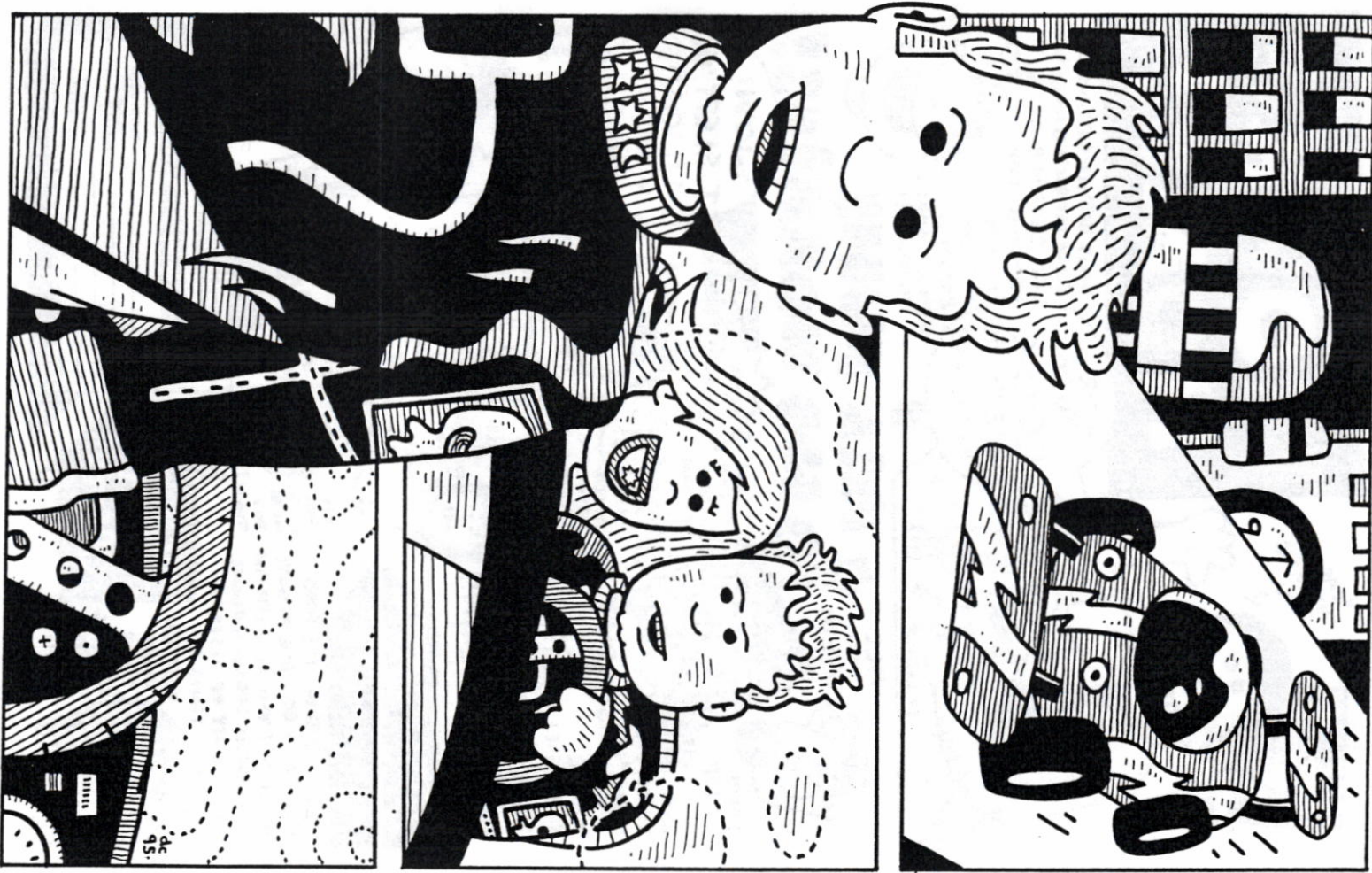
Whoops, I lied. There's more tuneage to be had...

**New Kingdom.** (<left) put out a tape a while back this year called "Paradise Don't Come Cheap" and they even sent a promo video for the single "Mexico" until now. I should have done both MUCH sooner. This is bizarre rap type stuff that sounds like it's at the wrong speed (much slower), but very intense. The video only heightens the sense of eerie western, ghetto blaster, hit squad, Scarface/Dirty Harry -isms... I haven't made it through the whole thing yet, but it's definitely worth playing as you cruise the bad parts of town, lookin' for action. (Gee Street) As is the new single from **Chuck D** (of Public Enemy) called "No", which I heard on the Mercury October Sales Compilation 1996 cd. I thought it was so cool, that I sampled the tail end of it for my answering machine message.

And who is this chick with the gun, you wonder? **Jane Jensen** (right>) ring a bell? Nope, not with me either, but with a CD called "Comic Book Whore", a geek like me has to check it out. Upon first listen, it's a middle ground between Ruby and Garbage in that there's heavy programming and female vocals. The letter from the prrrl says, "Comic Book Whore" tells of unresolved desires and frustration, as it mixes 90s-girl attitude with industrial and pop sensibilities". While I try to figure out what "industrial and pop sensibilities" are, I'm gonna warn you that Ms. Jensen has a voice that, at times, gets way too cutesy and THAT sounds like chalk screeching across a blackboard to my artgeek ears... Also worthy of mention is that on this cd, Jensen teams up with ex-Siouxie & the Banshees guitarist John Caruthers. Hoo ha. (Flip Records) (<http://www.fliprecords.com>)



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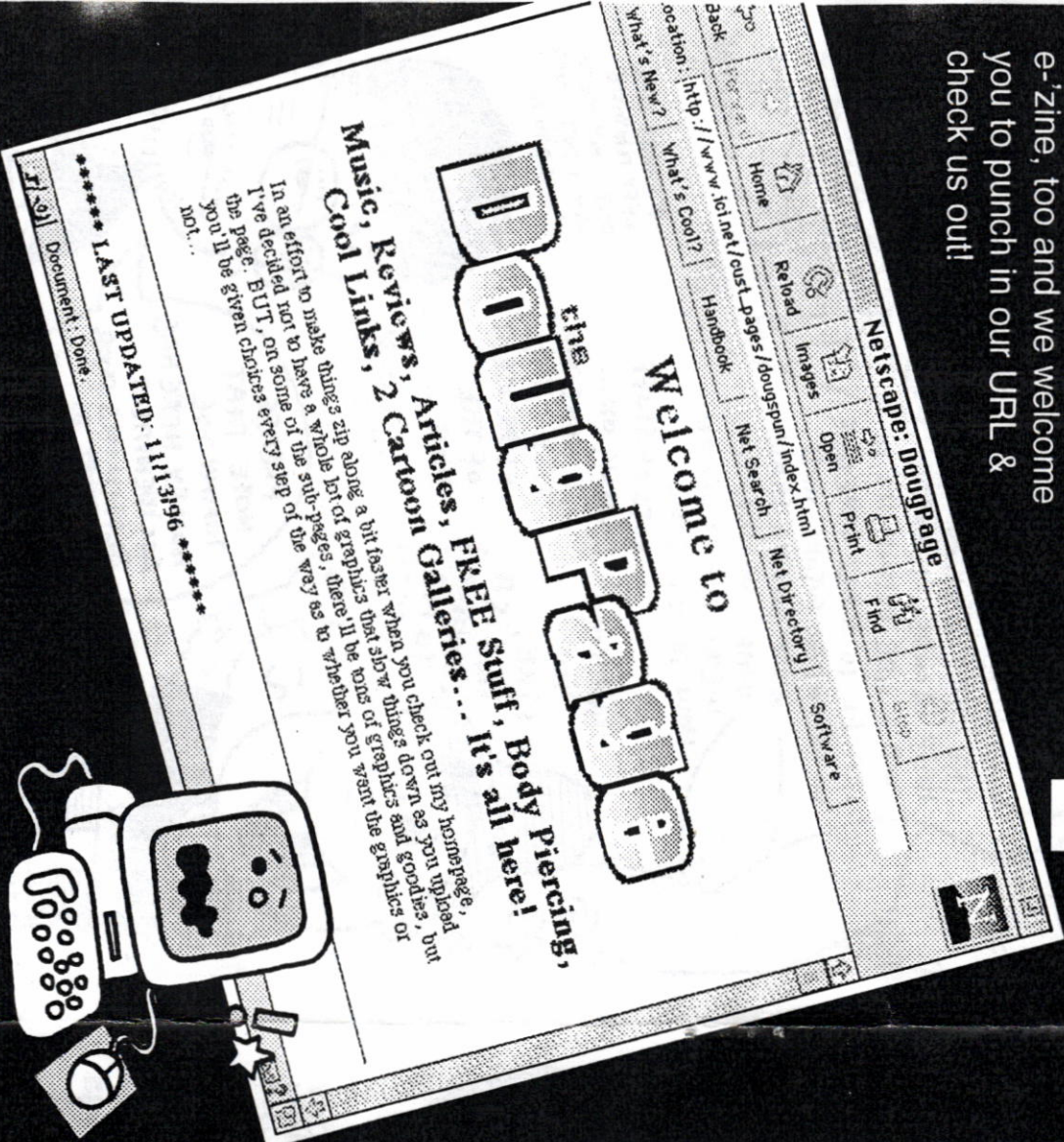


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